UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

E/CONF.39/H/17
SUMMARY
21 Nov.1962
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL : FRENCH

SUMMARY

Agenda Item : H.1.1

France

INTERDEPENDENCE AND MUTUAL COHERENCE OF TECHNICAL STANDARDS IN DEVELOPMENT

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SUMMARY

A certain number of theoreticians and even practical developers have focussed the latter on industrialisation as opposed to agriculture, which has been considered as a sphere of activity which is not very capable of an intense and rapid increase in productivity.

Others, however, faced with an absence of savings or credits, for want of contractors, managers and qualified industrial technicians, or again because the population was predominantly rural, have put the main emphasis on agricultural expansion.

Conceptions of "balanced growth", tend to stress the need for balanced development of the various sectors of economic and social activity.

Some critics consider that these ideas are rather inspired by a desire for social justice, than based on concrete realities.

The paper sets out to show that technical standards are interdependant, and of necessity mutually coherent.

It falls into two parts: the first considers the Industrial Revolution historically, the second examines and compares agricultural and industrial standards of development.

The European industrial revolution of the 18th century was preceded by a revolution of opinion and the existence of progressive innovators; it was conditioned by agricultural, commercial and financial expansion and accompanied, if not preceded, by demographic expansion and the modernisation of agriculture.

Climate of opinion, technical factors, structures and mechanisms of encouragement, innovators and contractors - all these elements work together in the development of the different spheres of activity whose interdependence justifies the concept of harmonious growth.

In Brazil, and more particularly in the state of Sao Paulo, a century later, similar correlations and co-variations are to be observed, in spite of differences of situation.

The interdependence and the mutual coherence of agriculture and industry are still studied in the case of Brazil, by observing the differences between the twenty one States of the Brazilian Federal Republic. Productivity per agricultural worker is higher in the more industrialised States, and the gap between agriculture and major industry, in the undeveloped States is diminishing progressively in those States which are being developed or have already been developed.

Other countries are mentioned, among them those of the Middle East.

More advanced studies, using modern economic techniques (economic statistics, tables of intersectorial relations, dynamic patterns of growth etc.) in the political economic and social conditions of each country, and according to its particular dynamism, could clarify the nature and the importance of the interdependance and the mutual coherence of technical standards.

In this way operational content would be given to the idea of balanced growth. In the medium or long term, its balance would be sought by means of inevitable partial disequilibria. It would be known how to provoke them (since they are necessary), and also how to master them without causing bottlenecks and waste of material and effort.

The report is illustrated by three diagrams: world distribution of active population in three sectors, evolution of the distribution of active population in Brazil (1940-1950), and a table comparing the product per agricultural worker with the product per industrial worker in the twenty-one States of Brazil.

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